

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. MTP-023DV2
(8395/27)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Keesee *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 09/315,355 GROUP NO.: 1642
FILING DATE: May 17, 1999 EXAMINER: Hunt, J.
TITLE: METHODS FOR THE DETECTION OF CERVICAL CANCER

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This application is a continued prosecution application of U.S. Serial No. 09/315,355, filed May 17, 1999. This paper addresses the issues raised in the Office action, mailed October 23, 2001.

AMENDMENTS

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Cancel claims 56, 59 and 60 without prejudice to their subsequent re-introduction into this case, or their introduction into a subsequently filed continuation application.

Amend claim 55 and 57 as follows:

55. (Amended) A method for detecting cervical cancer in a human, the method comprising:

(a) contacting a tissue or body fluid sample from the human with a binding moiety selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid and a peptide nucleic acid that binds to a target nucleic acid indicative of cervical cancer, if present